Maine Atlantic Salmon
Conservation Fund
OVERVIEW 2006

A program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in collaboration with NOAA-Fisheries, the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission and other conservation partners.

Inside

The Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund supports efforts to recover wild Atlantic salmon by ensuring healthy watersheds and restoring other sea-run fish with which they are closely linked. This overview summarizes MASCF's accomplishments to-date and highlights the work of organizations that are making a difference today and for the future.

CONTENTS

A Message from the Program Coordinators

This overview profiles just a few of the 100-plus projects MASCF has supported since October, 2000. From providing tools to help communities tackle difficult resource issues, to funding habitat protection and restoration projects, MASCF is making a visible difference. We hope that this overview will give you a sense of the breadth of the program and the accomplishments made possible through the tireless work of our partners, whose countless hours of dedication and skill bring projects to fruition. Thanks to funding provided by Maine's congressional delegation, the program is now in its sixth year.

Atlantic salmon recovery is complex. There is no one answer, no silver bullet, and no quick fix. However, one thing we do know is that in order to set the stage for recovery, communities and landowners in salmon watersheds have to be engaged. MASCF operates quietly in the background, providing technical support and critical funding that enables local conservation groups, private landowners, and agencies to implement projects that benefit salmon and other migratory fish like alewife, American shad, and American eel. The long-term solutions we facilitate today are critical to maintaining the healthy watersheds necessary for their survival.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program (USFWS) work together to implement the program. NFWF serves as an important conduit for federal funding for salmon recovery in Maine. With NFWF raising funds to cover its administrative costs, 100% of the appropriation goes to on-the-ground projects. NFWF also provides valuable insights gained from experience with partnerships elsewhere in the country. At the field level, USFWS provides technical support to help partners identify, prioritize and implement successful restoration and protection projects. USFWS knowledge of the landscape, partner's capabilities, and biological needs helps link MASCF with priorities identified by state and federal recovery plans for Atlantic salmon.

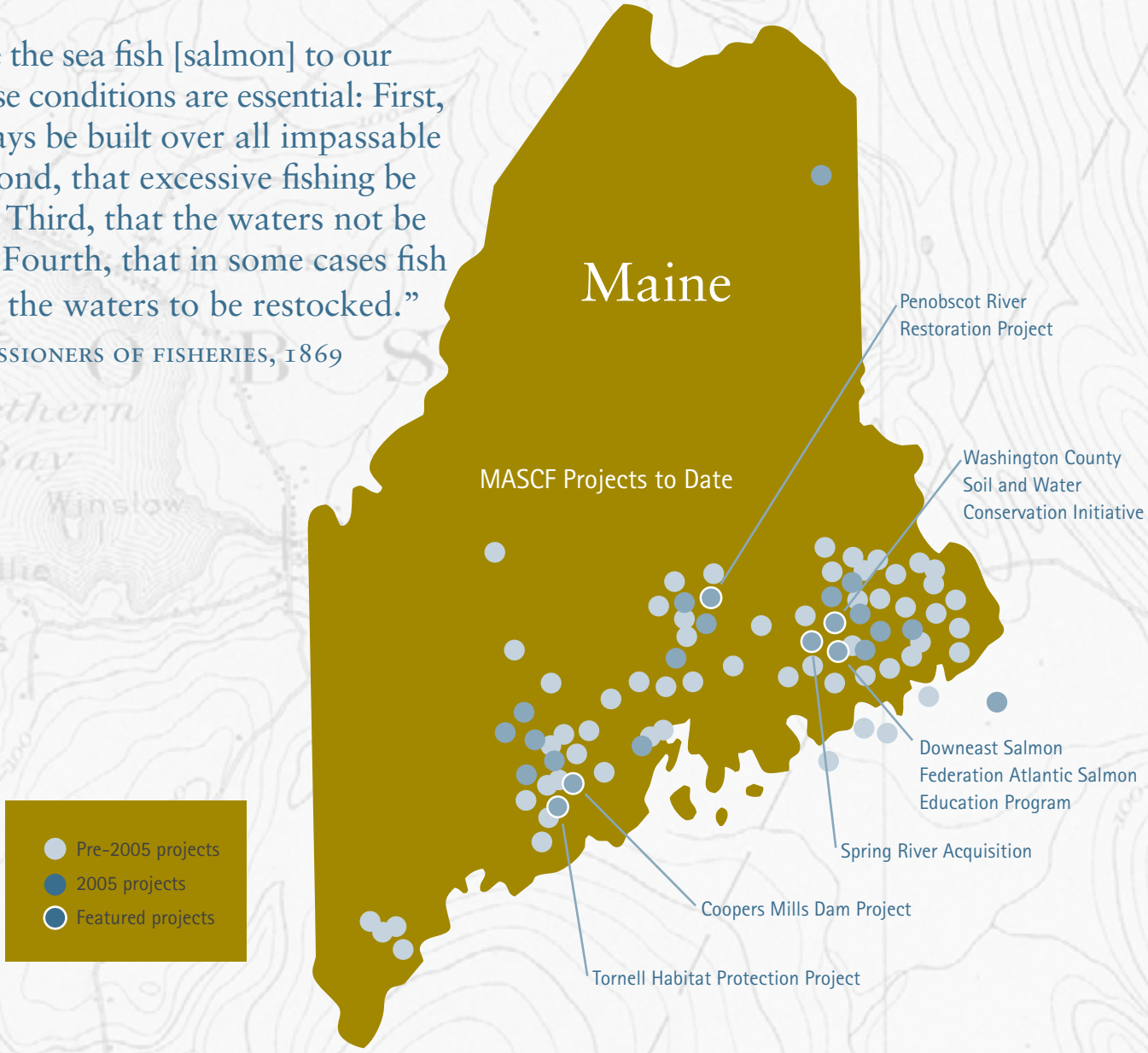
We are proud of what MASCF has helped accomplish. Some of the projects we support, including dam removals and erosion control projects provide immediate benefits. Other projects look to the future by reaching out to children and communities to help build healthier watersheds. The results speak for themselves: thousands of acres of habitat permanently protected; miles of habitat re-opened to fish passage; and, people of all ages engaged in the challenge.

Sincerely,

Jed Wright, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program*
Jonathan Mawdsley, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

"To restore the sea fish [salmon] to our waters these conditions are essential: First, that fishways be built over all impassable dams. Second, that excessive fishing be prevented. Third, that the waters not be poisoned. Fourth, that in some cases fish be bred in the waters to be restocked."

COMMISSIONERS OF FISHERIES, 1869



The following conservation partners play a vital role in implementing MASCF funded projects:

ABG Consulting
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Boston College
BSA Environmental Consulting
Coastal Mountains Land Trust
Concepts of Place, Inc.
Cove Brook Watershed Council
Dartmouth College
Dennys River Watershed Council
Downeast Resource Conservation and Development Council
Downeast Rivers Land Trust
Downeast Salmon Federation
Ducktrap Coalition
East Machias River Watershed Council
Forest Society of Maine
International Paper, Inc.
Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District
Kleinschmidt Energy and Water Resource Consultants
Land for Maine's Future Board
Machias River Watershed Council
Maine Aquaculture Association
Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission
Maine Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation
Maine Department of Conservation,
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Maine Department of Transportation
Maine Deptartment of Environmental Protection
Maine Forest Service
Maine School Administrative District 64
MariCal, Inc.
Narraguagus River Watershed Council
National Academy of Sciences
Natural Resources Council of Maine
New England Forestry Foundation, Inc.
NOAA-Fisheries
Parish Geomorphic, Inc.
Penobscot River Restoration Trust
Pleasant River Watershed Council
Plymouth State University
Project SHARE
Quoddy Regional Land Trust
Saco River Salmon Club
Sheepscot River Watershed Council
Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association
The Nature Conservancy
Time and Tide RC&D
Town of Cherryfield
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Forest Service
University of Maine
Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District
Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine

RESTORATION

MASCF Contributes $1 Million to Penobscot River Restoration Project

On October 13th, 2005 the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund awarded the Penobscot River Restoration Trust (PRRT) $1 million to support restoration of self-sustaining runs of Atlantic salmon and 10 other species of sea-run fish.

The Penobscot River is New England's second largest river draining 8,570 square miles, or about one-third of Maine. The Penobscot River Restoration Trust has undertaken an ambitious plan to revive not only native fisheries but social, cultural and economic traditions of the river and the surrounding habitat. It is one of the largest, most creative river restoration projects in our nation's history.

A landmark agreement, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in June of 2004, established a roadmap for restoring the river that will:

- Restore self-sustaining populations of native sea-run fish, such as the endangered Atlantic salmon, by improving access to over 500 miles of historic habitat.
- Renew opportunities for the Penobscot Indian Nation to exercise sustenance fishing rights.
- Create new opportunities for tourism, business and communities.
- Resolve longstanding disputes and avoid future uncertainties over the regulation of the river
- Benefit wildlife along the river corridor, including birds of prey and struggling groundfish populations in the Gulf of Maine.

As part of the agreement, the Penobscot River Restoration Trust retained the option to purchase three dams from the owners, PPL Corporation, and remove the two lowermost dams on the river: Veazie and Great Works. The PRRT, after obtaining the approval of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, proposes to decommission and pursue construction of a state-of-the-art fish bypass around the third dam in Howland, that will, if found feasible, maintain the impoundment.

PPL Corporation retained the opportunity to increase generation at six existing dams, which would result in more than 95% of the current energy generation being maintained. The company also agreed to improve fish passage at four additional dams.

The award from MASCF comes at a critical time in the PPRT's fund raising efforts. The $1 million, which will be used to purchase the Veazie, Great Works, and Howland dams, requires an additional $1 million match from non-federal funds. With the removal of the two largest dams closest to the ocean, the decommissioning and installation of a nature-like fishway at the Howland dam, and improvements at four other dams owned by PPL Corporation, access to 500 miles of river will be significantly improved while hydropower production is maintained.

"This award contributes to important early momentum in raising funds for the restoration project," says Laura Rose Day, Executive Director of the Penobscot River Restoration Trust.

> "The Penobscot River Restoration Project is one of the largest, most creative river restoration projects in our nation's history."

The Penobscot River Restoration Plan represents and unprecedented level of collaboration between various state, local, federal, corporate and non-profit entities. The final agreement was signed by PPL Corporation, the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Park Service, four State of Maine natural resource agencies (the State Planning Office, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Atlantic Salmon Commission), the Penobscot Indian Nation, American Rivers, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Audubon, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Trout Unlimited and the Penobscot River Restoration Trust.

A total of $25 million must be raised within the next three and a half years to purchase the three dams. With the help of MASCF and Maine's Congressional delegation, $3.5 million in federal funding has now been secured for the project. Other federal sources include NOAA-Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Penobscot River Restoration Trust has until June of 2009 to raise additional funds and has established a private capital campaign. "I am encouraged by our efforts thus far and I look forward to continued success as we gain even more momentum," states Day. "I am pleased by the terrific group of Honorary Co-Chairs at the helm of our effort, including: Governor Baldacci, Senator Snowe, Senator Collins, Congressman Allen, Congressman Michaud, Senator George Mitchell, Senator Bill Cohen, John Echohawk, and Keller George."

Other Penobscot River Restoration projects supported through MASCF

MASCF is supporting the Penobscot River Restoration Trust through a number of other projects. MASCF is providing funding to assist the PRRT with community outreach and organizational coordination. In addition, MASCF has funded a multi-year project to assess passage and behavior of emigrating Atlantic salmon smolts in the river. The project is providing valuable baseline information on smolt migratory behavior and mortality in the Penobscot River prior to dam removals.

HABITAT PROTECTION

Landmark Agreement Protects 12 miles of Critical Habitat in Hancock County

Nearly 10,000 acres in Downeast Maine, including a dozen miles of river frontage along the Spring River and the West Branch of the Narraguagus Rivers, will be preserved as the result of a $2.2 million purchase by The Nature Conservancy. The purchase was supported in part by a $100,000 grant from the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund.

The deal, finalized in December 2005, protects key Atlantic Salmon spawning and rearing habitat by creating a buffer along the rivers and reducing erosion. In anticipation of the purchase, landowner H.C. Haynes, and the Conservancy negotiated limited harvesting over the entire property during the two years the Conservancy needed to raise the purchase price. The logging contractor agreed to forgo timber harvesting in areas that might generate erosion and put the rivers at further risk, including a 500-foot buffer along the sections of Spring River and the West Branch of the Narraguagus that define the property's northern border.

"Habitat protection is one of the key elements of Atlantic salmon recovery," says USFWS's Jed Wright. "Agreements such as this one will help ensure that the Narraguagus remains healthy and gives us a fighting chance to save the species."

This landmark agreement between the landowner and The Nature Conservancy protects over 10,000 acres of Atlantic Salmon habitat.

HABITAT PROTECTION

Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association Acquires Key Parcel

A working farm that had been owned by the Tornell family for over 200 years in Alna, Maine—was recently acquired by the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association, with the help of funding provided by MASCF. The 18-acre parcel features 2,300 feet of river frontage and abuts historic Larabee Pool, a deep-water pool known to support salmon over the coldest winter months as well as the hottest summer ones.

The purchase was the culmination of many years of informal discussions between the SVCA and the landowner, who sold the property at below market value to ensure that it would retain its rural character for walking and other low impact activities. The SVCA plans to achieve that goal by providing habitat protection, while allowing access to the property for recreational opportunities by establishing walking trails.

The Tornell Property acquisition is the latest in a series of notable accomplishments by the SVCA. In 2002, the organization helped establish a "no development" easement on a 64-acre farm in Whitefield that borders the Sheepscot River. The agreement enables the property to remain a working farm, while establishing practices that are consistent with improving salmon habitat. For example, where fields had once been hayed to the edge of the riverbank, the SVCA has established a riparian buffer, aided by the organization's planting of trees.

"We're committed to retaining the rural character of our region. That means retaining working farms and forests, providing recreational opportunities and protecting river frontage and the wildlife that live along our river—most notably salmon," says Maureen Hoffman, Executive Director of the SVCA. "While there is much work still to do to protect the watershed, I don't think we could have achieved anything close to what we've been able to accomplish without the support of the MASCF. Their continued support has made an enormous positive impact."

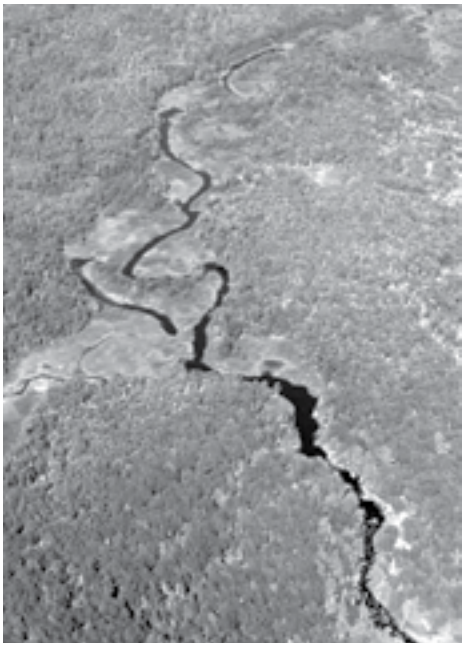
OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Atlantic Salmon Education Program Provides Learning at Hatchery, in Classrooms and in the Field

The hydroelectric dam on the Pleasant River that once impeded Atlantic Salmon migration is now gone, and a powerful outreach program for students, community groups and the general public has taken its place.

With the help of funding from MASCF, the Downeast Salmon Federation has supported a full time education position for the past 5 years. Jacob van de Sande has been the Educator/Hatchery Manager from the beginning. The Wild Salmon Research Center headquarters (formerly the dam's control facility), now houses a classroom and a fish hatchery (complete with 55,000 Pleasant River Salmon eggs) that are both vital to the program. In addition, Jacob takes his show on the road to 10 area schools, where students can learn about salmon through this unique interactive program.

One measure of the program's success, according to Jacob, is that is that the students retain an amazing amount of information about the salmon life cycle between presentations—even when they are years apart, as is the case when he delivers his advanced program to high school students he first met as grade schoolers. "If the students are engaged, and excited about salmon and the watersheds that support them, they are going to learn and retain more of what they are taught. Today's students will carry that information with them as them grow up and become future landowners, employees, and leaders in our communities." Going into his 6th year with the program, van de Sande is more committed than ever to reaching out to the community. In his words, "I strongly believe that the only way we will truly restore wild salmon to Maine rivers is to have communities that understand the basic biology of salmon and the role we all play in their demise, what we all can do to reduce our impacts and aid in the restoration of the last wild Atlantic salmon in the United States."



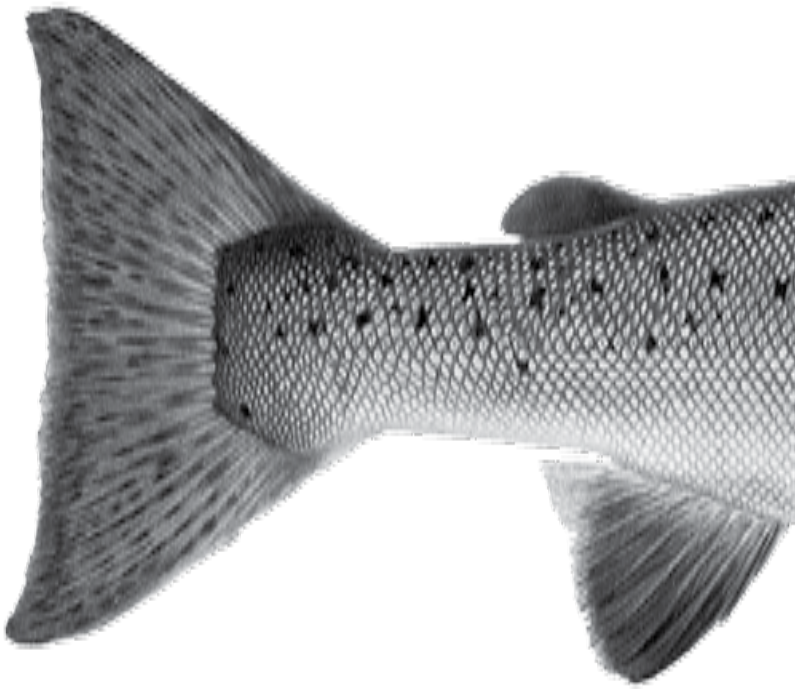
Critical Atlantic Salmon spawning and rearing habitat along the Spring River (shown) and the West Branch of the Narraguagus Rivers are being protected as the result of a landmark agreement between The Nature Conservancy and the landowner, funded in part through MASCF.

The Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association has protected over 2,000 acres of land in the watershed including Happy Farm in Whitefield which buffers over 2,200 feet of valuable salmon habitat.

Students prepare to release salmon fry raised in their classroom into the Pleasant River. The Downeast Salmon Federation's Atlantic Salmon education program, led by Jacob van de Sande (standing with net) has taught hundreds of school children, as well as community groups and the general public about the salmon life cycle and habitat.

"Provide some refuge for the salmon, and provide it quickly, before complications arise which may make it impracticable, or at least very difficult. After the rivers are ruined and the salmon are gone, they cannot be reclaimed."

LIVINGSTON STONE, 1892



"If the Pigeons plagued us by their abundance, the Salmon gave us even more trouble. So large a quantity of them enters into this river that at night one is unable to sleep."

N. DENYS, 1672

In the five years since its inception, MASCF has provided over $8.6 million to projects promoting the recovery of Atlantic Salmon, and leveraged an additional $13 million for conservation efforts.

The impact to Atlantic salmon from blueberry irrigation has been significantly reduced through an initiative spearheaded by the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District with critical support from MASCF. Three years ago, the soil and water conservation district identified nearly 40 pumps in areas of concern. With the help of MASCF funding and overwhelming support of the growers, who shared over 50% of the cost, there are now only four pumps left on the list.

Illustration: Joe Tomelleri

RESTORATION

MASCF Instrumental in Forging Consensus for Future of Dam

The Coopers Mill Dam, in the town of Whitefield, has been unused for at least three decades, perhaps more. Previous dams on the site, dating back to the early 1800s once powered sawmills along the Sheepscot River. While the current dam is not a source of power, it serves the community as a source of water for fire control. It is the only source of water that allows for direct pumping for fires in the Coopers Mills village, and its presence has been instrumental in dealing with several local fires. A dam inspection conducted by Kleinschmidt Associates in 2005, confirmed what town officials, the general public and various environmental groups and agencies already suspected, that the Coopers Mills Dam is in significant disrepair and poses problems both to public safety and natural resources, including:

- Deteriorated concrete on the up stream side of the spillway
- Hollow concrete and cracks over the bedrock foundation that pose an imminent danger of failure
- Soft concrete on the spillway surface
- Significant leakage
- Deteriorated masonry stone under the concrete cap
- Non-functional and leaking gates
- Concrete erosion and cracks in the fishway

In its present state of disrepair the dam does not meet fish passage or fire protection needs. As a result, a group including local citizens, natural resource interests and the town of Whitefield began seeking a solution that would reliably maintain sufficient water for fire protection but would not obstruct fish passage.

The MASCF became a vital resource for the project, helping engender a collaborative process for all stakeholders involved and forging a solution that all parties could embrace. As committee member and resident of Coopers Mills Helen Smith states, "funding to hire outside expertise has been critical to helping us move forward on what might have been a contentious issue. MASCF funding is helping our town maintain fire protection and protect our environment."

AGRICULTURE

Initiative Funded by MASCF Helps Salmon Habitat and Blueberry Growers

Maine is the largest producer of wild blueberries in the world, and most of the crop comes from Washington County. While most crops are susceptible to drought, the lowbush blueberry is particularly vulnerable. Historically, many of the commercial growers in Washington County depended on pumps to obtain water from streams and rivers—sources that directly affected Atlantic Salmon habitat.

In 2003, the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District, with funding from MASCF, began an initiative that benefits both blueberry growers and the Atlantic Salmon habitat within Washington County. The initiative has two major components: helping growers develop alternate water sources and helping them develop water use plans. Both aspects of the plan have been very successful.

Three years ago, the soil and water conservation district identified nearly 40 pumps in areas of concern. With the help of MASCF funding and overwhelming support of the growers, who shared over 50% of the cost, there are now only four pumps left on the list. "The majority of the growers have dug spring fed-ponds that have become their new water source," says the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District's Nate Pennell. "One of the big advantages of going this route is that if the fields are over watered, the runoff goes right back into the pond. As the program goes forward, we hope to replace the last four pumps still operating with new ponds and also educate new growers about the advantages of pond irrigation for the growers and for salmon habitat."

The Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District is also helping blueberry growers to develop more cost-effective and efficient plans for irrigation. When combined with the pond irrigation initiative, the result is a holistic plan for each grower that creates a win-win scenario for the blueberry producer and for salmon habitat.

Illustration: Dan Daly, Maine

2005 PROJECTS

NORTH AMERICAN SALMONID EXCHANGE II: Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission; Northern California watersheds and Maine

Local Match: *$15,000*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$15,000*
Total Grant: *$30,000*

Objective: Continue to facilitate the exchange of information among researchers, government agencies, and stakeholders working to restore salmonids on the East and West coasts.

ATLANTIC SALMON PLANNING AND OUTREACH II: Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission; Statewide Maine

Local Match: *$50,000*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$50,000*
Total Grant: *$100,000*

Objective: Support the implementation of the federal recovery plan for Atlantic salmon and develop river-specific planning efforts. Project will protect and restore habitat, coordinate stewardship efforts, and engage stakeholders.

AROOSTOOK RIVER ATLANTIC SALMON BROODSTOCK PROGRAM: Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission; Statewide Maine

Local Match: *$61,500*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$24,800*
Total Grant: *$86,300*

Objective: Develop and implement a captive-reared Atlantic salmon broodstock program in the Aroostook River in Maine for the purposes of population enhancement and research. Project will stock the river with Atlantic salmon fry and evaluate fry performance.

GREENLAND CONSERVATION AGREEMENT II: Atlantic Salmon Federation, Inc.; Washington County, Maine and Greenland

Local Match: *$150,000*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$100,000*
Total Grant: *$250,000*

Objective: Fulfill fourth year of an agreement with Greenland to suspend commercial fishing of wild Atlantic salmon in Greenland waters. Project will collect and dispose of salmon nets and identify and promote alternative activities for fishermen.

COMMUNITY SALMON RECOVERY CAPACITY BUILDING: Downeast Salmon Federation; Washington County, Maine

Local Match: *$75,000*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$75,000*
Total Grant: *$150,000*

Objective: Expand programs that target Atlantic salmon recovery and engage citizens in habitat protection and fisheries enhancement. Project will provide presentations and field experiences to twelve community groups and twelve school groups.

SHEEPSCOT RIVER WATERSHED KRIS DEVELOPMENT III: Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association; Lincoln, Knox, Kennebec and Waldo Counties, Maine

Local Match: *$14,000*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$10,000*
Total Grant: *$24,000*

Objective: Establish procedures to guide agencies and organizations in periodically updating a database created to integrate and disseminate maps and data on Atlantic salmon survival in the Sheepscot River.

SHEEPSCOT RIVER THERMAL IMAGING SURVEY

Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association; Lincoln, Kennebec and Waldo Counties, Maine

Local Match: *$26,000*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$26,000*
Total Grant: *$52,000*

Objective: Identify cool water refugia for Atlantic salmon in the Sheepscot River and associated tributaries using aerial thermal infrared digital imaging. Results will be used to prioritize habitat protection projects in the Sheepscot River watershed.

SHEEPSCOT SALMON HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM III

Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association; Lincoln, Kennebec and Waldo Counties, Maine

Local Match: *$204,000*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$155,300*
Total Grant: *$359,300*

Objective: Continue to identify and protect critical Atlantic salmon habitat in the Sheepscot River watershed in Maine. Project will complete five land protection projects totaling more than 150 acres, including 7,000 feet of river frontage.

DOWNEAST MAINE SALMON HABITAT PROTECTION PLANNING: Forest Society of Maine; Washington and Hancock Counties, Maine

Local Match: *$21,100*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$20,000*
Total Grant: *$41,100*

Objective: Work with mid-scale landowners to protect Atlantic salmon habitat on Downeast Maine rivers using conservation planning, easements, and ecological monitoring. Project will complete negotiations on several conservation deals.

DOWNEAST MAINE WATERSHEDS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District; Washington County, Maine

Local Match: *$123,725*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$125,000*
Total Grant: *$248,725*

Objective: Conduct outreach to local communities in the Narraguagus, Pleasant, Machias, East Machias, and Dennys River watersheds on topics such as riparian protection, sound water use management, and Atlantic salmon habitat stewardship.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE WATER MANAGEMENT II

Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District; Washington County, Maine

Local Match: *$171,000*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$167,000*
Total Grant: *$338,000*

Objective: Develop and implement farm water management plans for up to 10 farms on Downeast Maine rivers in order to reduce or eliminate agricultural water uses that degrade Atlantic salmon habitat.

PENOBSCOT RIVER FISH PASSAGE RESTORATION

Penobscot River Restoration Trust; Hancock, Penobscot and Piscataquis counties, Maine

Local Match: *$1,000,000*
NFWF Federal Funds: *$1,000,000*
Total Grant: *$2,000,000*

Objective: Implement an agreement to restore 500 miles of anadromous fish passage with a series of dam removals and dam bypass installations along the Penobscot River in Maine, which holds the largest remaining run of wild Atlantic salmon in the United States.

MIDCOAST MAINE CONSERVATION TOOLS ASSESSMENT

Concepts of Place, Inc.; Midcoast Maine

Local Match:	*$16,000*
NFWF Federal Funds:	*$16,000*
Total Grant:	*$32,000*

Objective: Conduct a needs assessment of practical conservation and planning tools and training required by communities in the four Midcoast Maine counties to improve land use decision-making and conservation of Atlantic salmon habitat.

SHEEPSCOT RIVER WATERSHED OUTREACH

Project SHARE; Sheepscot River Watershed, Maine

Local Match:	*$23,770*
NFWF Federal Funds:	*$20,000*
Total Grant:	*$43,770*

Objective: Conduct outreach to the local communities in the Sheepscot River Watershed in order to facilitate the protection and restoration of Atlantic salmon habitat. Project will engage and coordinate volunteers in riparian restoration and monitoring activities.

DOWNEAST MAINE RIPARIAN BUFFER REVEGETATION

Project SHARE; Washington and Hancock Counties, Maine

Local Match:	*$8,000*
NFWF Federal Funds:	*$8,000*
Total Grant:	*$16,000*

Objective: Revegetate riparian buffers at 50 sites on Downeast Maine rivers, in order to improve water quality in Atlantic salmon habitat. Project will also update and improve a web-based GIS database for Atlantic salmon habitat restoration activities.

SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Project SHARE; Washington and Hancock Counties, Maine

Local Match:	$41,100
NFWF Federal Funds:	$41,100
Total Grant:	$82,200

Objective: Provide technical and capacity support for Atlantic salmon habitat restoration activities on five Downeast Maine rivers. Activities will improve fish passage and reduce point and non-point source pollution.

The Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund has supported over 100 Atlantic salmon recovery projects that protect over 54,000 acres of riparian habitat that are critical to the long-term survival of the species.

Illustration: Dan Daly, Maine

DUCKTRAP COALITION OUTREACH AND COORDINATION II

Coastal Mountains Land Trust; Waldo County, Maine

Local Match:	*$21,884*
NFWF Federal Funds:	*$19,000*
Total Grant:	*$40,884*

Objective: Conduct an education and outreach program for landowners, municipalities, and the public to conserve riparian land in the Ducktrap River Watershed, Maine. The project will also restore riparian habitat by removing invasive Japanese knotweed.

COVE BROOK WATERSHED OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Cove Brook Watershed Council; Cove Brook watershed, Maine

Local Match:	*$5,000*
NFWF Federal Funds:	*$20,000*
Total Grant:	*$25,000*

Objective: Conserve and restore Cove Brook and its watershed in Maine by educating the public about its natural resources, completing a watershed assessment, developing a Watershed Management Plan, and creating a strategic plan for the watershed council.

MAINE FISH PASSAGE COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Maine Department of Conservation; Lincoln, Waldo, Hancock and Penobscot Counties, Maine

Local Match:	*$90,000*
NFWF Federal Funds:	*$90,000*
Total Grant:	*$180,000*

Objective: Assist landowners in five Maine watersheds with the improvement of fish passage on their properties in order to reconnect habitat for Atlantic salmon and other species.

SALMON HABITAT SEDIMENT TRANSPORT ANALYSIS

Boston College; Sheepscot and Narraguagus watersheds, Maine

Local Match:	$42,700
NFWF Federal Funds:	$40,000
Total Grant:	$82,700

Objective: Investigate the relationships among underlying geology, stream morphology, substrate grain size and mobility, and Atlantic salmon habitat in the Sheepscot and Narraguagus watersheds in Maine in order to evaluate habitat restoration potential.

PLEASANT RIVER WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN

BSA Environmental Consulting; Pleasant River watershed, Maine

Local Match:	$17,500
NFWF Federal Funds:	$17,500
Total Grant:	$35,000

Objective: Create a strategic plan for monitoring water quality in the Pleasant River watershed in Maine by identifying the role of each monitoring agency and the data to be collected. Project will improve Atlantic salmon habitat and guide resource use decisions.

MIGRATION STUDY OF PENOBSCOT SALMON SMOLTS II

University of Maine System; Penobscot River, Maine

Local Match:	$103,320
NFWF Federal Funds:	$95,575
Total Grant:	$198,895

Objective: Assess mortality, passage, and behavior of migrating Atlantic salmon smolts in the Penobscot River using acoustic telemetry. Project will provide critical baseline data that can be used to assess outcomes of restoration projects on the Penobscot River.

PUSHAW LAKE NORTHERN PIKE ASSESSMENT

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Penobscot County, Maine

Local Match:	*$13,524*
NFWF Federal Funds:	*$13,000*
Total Grant:	*$26,524*

Objective: Determine the status of non-native pike in Pushaw Lake, Maine by conducting a telemetry study and a creel census. Project will create a management plan for the lake to direct pike control efforts.

Photography: Bill Curtsinger, Maine

"...the crucial issue for us is not a better understanding of salmon and the natural systems that support their abundance. The crucial issue is the way we understand ourselves and the cumulative consequences of our actions."

DAVID BELLA, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

2001 PROJECTS

Agriculture

Sustainable Agriculture Water Management in Maine
Wyman Water Use Plan and Dissemination

Aquaculture

Aquaculture Containment Verification System

Assessment

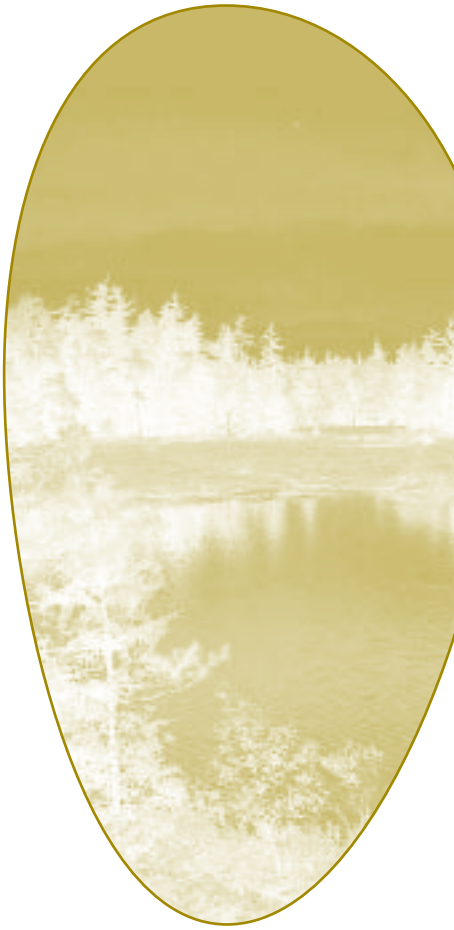
Atlantic Salmon Status and Future Analysis
Habitat Mapping Projects
Saco River Salmon Club Fisheries Restoration Project

Education and Outreach

Atlantic Salmon Education Expansion in Maine
SVCA Habitat Workshop

Habitat Protection

Beaverdam Stream Parcel Habitat Protection Project
Dennys River Corridor Project
Dixon Parcel Habitat Protection Project
Drisko Parcel Habitat Protection Project
Dunton Parcel Habitat Protection Project
East Ridge Habitat Protection Project
Happy Farm Habitat Protection Project
LTA Assessment Project
Pottle Parcel Habitat Protection Project
QRLT Robinson Habitat Protection Project
Quoddy II Habitat Protection Project
Sheepscot Biddle Parcel Habitat Protection Project
Sheepscot Habitat Protection Specialist
Sheepscot Barth Parcel Habitat Protection Project
Sinclair Barrens Habitat Protection Project
Tierney Parcel Habitat Protection Project



Habitat Restoration
Coopers Mills Dam Fire Control and Fishway Project
Ducktrap Rt. 52 Habitat Protection Project
Munson Rips Bridge Project
Narraguagus Salt and Sand Abatement Project
Sennebec Dam Removal Project
West Winterport Fish Passage Project
Regional Hydraulic Geometry Curve

2002 PROJECTS

Assessment
Sheepscot River Water Quality Monitoring Plan

Capacity Building
Dennys River Watershed Capacity Building
Downeast Salmon Federation Capacity Expansion
Ducktrap River Protection and Stewardship
Machias/East Machias Rivers Coordinator
Maine Atlantic Salmon Habitat Mapping
Narraguagus River Watershed Capacity Building
Pleasant River Watershed Capacity Building
Sheepscot River Stewardship

Education and Outreach
Atlantic Salmon Education Expansion in Maine-II
Downeast River Newsletter
Palermo Salmon Reserve Outdoor Classroom
Sheepscot Watershed Book

Habitat Protection
Atlantic Salmon Lands Protection
Cove Brook Acquisition
Dennys River Preston Property Acquisition
East Shore-Palermo Salmon Reserve
Gilman Dam Acquisition
Lamont Property Acquisition
Machias River Conservation Easements
Pleasant River Howe Conservation Easements
Saco Falls Pleasant River Conservation
Sheepscot River Palermo Salmon Reserve
Stewardship Development

Habitat Restoration
Dearborn Brook Restoration
Dennys River Watershed Restoration
Machias River Non-Point Source Database
Machias River Watershed Restoration
Sennebec Dam Removal

2003 PROJECTS

Assessment
Demonstration Project for Use of SuperSmolt
Fluvial Habitat Assessment of the Kennebec River
Improving Road Maintenance to Benefit Salmon
Sheepscot River Comprehensive Plan
West Branch Sheepscot Geomorphic Assessment

Capacity Building
Atlantic Salmon Planning and Outreach
Machias/East Machias Rivers Coordinator II
Narraguagus River Watershed Coordinator
Needs Analysis for Sustainable Watershed Councils
Pleasant River Watershed Coordinator

Education and Outreach
Atlantic Salmon Education Initiative III
Sheepscot River Watershed KRIS Development
Watershed: A Book on the Sheepscot Watershed
Watershed Habitat Features Assessment
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Habitat Protection
Atlantic Salmon Conservation Initiative II
Atlantic Salmon Lands Protection II
Gardner Easement Acquisition
Great Falls Acquisition
Lawrence Parcel Acquisition
Machias Wigwams Acquisition
Sheepscot Salmon Habitat Protection Program
Spring River/Haynes Acquisition

Habitat Restoration
Downeast NPS Site Stabilization
Kenduskeag Stream Restoration

Other
Greenland Conservation Agreement

2004 PROJECTS

Aquaculture
Salmon Conservation Education Program

Assessment
Assessing Large Woody Debris for Salmon
Crooked River Water Quality Mitigation
Migration Study of Penobscot Salmon Smolts
Narraguagus Water Quality Monitoring Plan
Road Salting Impacts on Atlantic Salmon
Sheepscot Water Quality Monitoring Plan II
Systematic Chemistry Survey of Salmon Rivers

Capacity Building
Machias/East Machias Rivers Coordinator III
Sheepscot Salmon Habitat Protection Program II
Sustainability Workshop for MASCF Partners

Education and Outreach
Atlantic Salmon Education Initiative IV
Ducktrap Coalition Outreach and Coordination
Kenduskeag Salmon Recovery
Kennebec River Restoration Outreach
North American Salmonid Exchange
Sheepscot River Watershed KRIS Development II

Habitat Protection
Atlantic Salmon Conservation Initiative III
Atlantic Salmon Lands Stewardship
Atlantic Salmon Lands Protection III
Downeast Lakes Acquisition
Drucker Property Acquisition
Machias River Acquisition II
Plains Lot Acquisition

Habitat Restoration
Penobscot River Agreement

For thousands of years sea-run fish migrations defined the Penobscot River, which once provided a seamless connection of life between the Gulf of Maine and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems deep inland. Assessments funded by MASCF are helping biologists understand factors impacting smolt migrations in the drainage - information that will help guide management decisions.

2006 MAINE ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION FUND

Need More Information?

Do you want more information on how to get involved with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund? Eligible projects include those which directly benefit the recovery of salmon populations in watersheds containing the Distinct Population Segments (DPS) of Atlantic salmon listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, as well as projects in the Penobscot River watershed. Projects in other drainages are also eligible for funding where the project demonstrates a strong direct link to salmon conservation. The primary focus of the program is on projects that protect, restore and reconnect habitat for salmon. The program also supports outreach to private landowners, community leaders, and other key constituencies to build support for conservation and protection strategies that help recover Atlantic salmon.

Eligible applicants are non-profit 501(c)3 organizations, educational institutions, state or local government agencies, and private for-profit companies. Individuals and federal government agencies are not eligible for grants under this program.

Visit our webpage at **http://www.nfwf.org/programs/mascf/index.cfm** to find details on all aspects of the program including our current deadlines and applications, project eligibility, and funding levels. If you are interested in getting on the mailing list for the program or need further information, please contact:

Jed Wright, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program*
Phone: 207.781.8364
Email: jed_wright@fws.gov

or,

Jonathan Mawdsley, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*
Phone: 202.857.0166
Email: jonathan.mawdsley@nfwf.org

THE LIFECYCLE OF A SALMON GRANT

The MASCF funds habitat protection and restoration projects that have a substantial benefit for watershed health. Our key objectives are to engage landowners and community groups in recovery efforts and to enlist the support and energy of groups and people who will ensure successful conservation practices. Preference is given to projects that:

- Have excellent salmon benefits and high visibility
- Engage community groups as project sponsors and/or hosts
- Have a high likelihood of being self-sustaining after the grant period
- Include significant matching funds from other sources

When the work is complete, applicants submit a final report so that their successes can be compiled with all the other MASCF grants to provide a clearer picture of how the program is progressing. All projects are evaluated for long-term completion and success by NFWF and USFWS.

Step 5: Project Completion and Evaluation

Applicants have 18 months from contract to complete their projects. Because many community groups don't have cash on hand, the program advances grantees funds for each phase of the project. At the end of each phase of work, applicants provide the program with a project update and request funding for the next phase (projects average three phases).

Step 1: Application

Applicants with ideas for strong, community-based salmon projects develop and submit proposals. In the weeks leading up to the deadline, staff at NFWF and USFWS remain in close contact with applicants, providing advice and feedback about project eligibility and the review process. The proposals include a four-to six-page narrative and several pages of forms for budgets and background info —usually eight to ten pages altogether.

Step 2: Review

Completed proposals are sent out to an independent technical review team of local experts with knowledge of restoration biology, local salmon recovery priorities and the community. Reviewers score the proposals on salmon benefits and community involvement, and comment on strong points and concerns. NFWF and USFWS staff spend the next few weeks following up with applicants, either in the field or by phone, to answer questions raised by the review team.

Step 3: Final Selection

Proposals are selected for MASCF grants based on the technical review team's scores and the applicant's answers to any follow-up questions. Successful applicants are notified of decisions within two to three months of submitting their proposals.

Step 4: Contract

Once awards are made, a grantee works with NFWF staff to draw up a contract with a timeline, budget, goals, and concrete measures of success. Measures of success include both tangible habitat goals (such as acres of riparian planting) and community involvement goals (such as number of volunteers and landowner contacts).

About the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund

Since its inception in October 2000, the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund (MASCF) has supported over 100 Atlantic salmon recovery projects that protect over 54,000 acres of riparian habitat and restore access to many miles of historic salmon habitat.

The MASCF's efforts include in-stream and riverine restoration, habitat protection, watershed management and organizational capacity building, water quality enhancement and monitoring, projects that remove direct threats to wild salmon and their habitat, and applied research to enhance salmon conservation efforts. The program also assists agriculture and aquaculture industries to develop practices that minimize impacts to wild salmon.

While the program has leveraged over $13 million in private funding for salmon conservation efforts, MASCF provides more than just financial support for implementing conservation projects. MASCF is a vehicle for building partnerships and stimulating salmon recovery throughout Maine. Grants made through MASCF have helped promote collaboration among federal and state agencies, industry, private landowners, local watershed councils and conservation groups. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program administer the program in partnership with the NOAA-Fisheries, the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the Maine State Planning Office—Land for Maine's Future Program, the University of Maine-Machias, the Wild Blueberry Commission, and local conservation groups.

For more information about MASCF, visit: **http://www.nfwf.org/programs/mascf/index.cfm**